

[Social Life]

W13913

[??] - Folkstuff

Accession no. W13913

Date received 10/10/40

Consignment no.

Shipped from Wash. Office

Label

Amount 5p

WPA L. C. PROJECT Writers' Unit

Form [md]3 Folklore Collection (or Type)

Title Social life

Place of origin Portland, Oreg. Date 12/12/38

Project worker Sara B. Wrenn

Project editor

Remarks

Form A

Library of Congress

Circumstances of Interview

Federal Writers' Project

Works Progress Administration

OREGON FOLKLORE STUDIES

Name of worker Sara B. Wrenn Date December 12, 1938

Address 505 Elks Building, Portland, Oregon

Subject Social Life

Name and address of informant Mrs. Margaret Weightman Cor. Oak & Cornell, Oswego, Oregon

Date and time of interview Dec. 7, 1938 1:30 to 5:00 p.m.

Place of interview Home, above address

Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant ——

Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you none

Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. Comfortable two-story house, attractively furnished. The usual suburban garden, with shrubs and flowers, looking as Oregon greens do in the month of December — somewhat barren.

Form B

Personal History of Informant

Library of Congress

Federal Writers' Project

Works Progress Administration

OREGON FOLKLORE STUDIES

Name of worker Sara B. Wrenn Date December 12, 1938

Address 505 Elks Building, Oregon

Subject Social Life

Name and address of informant Mrs. Margaret Weightman Cor. Oak & Cornell, Oswego, Oregon

Information obtained should supply the following facts:

1. Ancestry
2. Place and date of birth
3. Family
4. Places lived in, with dates
5. Education, with dates
6. Occupations and accomplishments with dates
7. Special skills and interests
8. Community and religious activities
9. Description of informant

Library of Congress

10. Other points gained in interview

1. Irish.
2. Oswego, Oregon August 29, 1884.
3. Father, Wm. Stock Halliman, b. Dublin, Ireland; Mother, Katherine Margaret DeLashmutt, b. Burlington, Iowa.
4. Oswego, 1884-1908; Seattle, 1908-1913; Spokane, 1913-1916; Oswego, 1916-1918; San Francisco, 1918-1929, Oswego, 1929 and since.
5. Public schools including high school, 1896-1906, Business College, 1908.
6. Millinery saleswoman, 1912-1926; Music off and on, piano.
7. Dancing.
8. Christian Science. All civic activities.
9. Medium height and weight; faded blonde, with gray hair, well dressed and quite attractive.
10. Very cooperative in every way. While informant was under 65, the interview seemed worth while because of the information given concerning her mother and father of earlier days. Mother born in 1847, died May 16, 1937.

Form C

Text of Interview (Unedited)

Federal Writers' Project

Library of Congress

Works Progress Administration

OREGON FOLKLORE STUDIES

Name of worker Sara B. Wrenn Date December 12, 1938

Address 505 Elks Bldg., Portland, Oregon

Subject Social Life

Name and address of informant Mrs. Margaret Weightman Cor. Oak & Cornell, Oswego, Oregon

Text: My mother, who was entering her 91st year when she died last year, spent the last six years of her life in bed, the result of a fractured hip. She had always been very active, and took a keen interest in everything right up to her death. The night before breaking her hip she was dancing — waltzing — with my daughter. She was always very fond of dancing, as were all of our family and relatives. Mother was very musical, both instrumental and vocal. Whenever there was a crowd of young people in the house she would play for the rest of us to sing. Her favorite song was "Old Lang Syne". I think that was because we could all sing it together. Another of her own favorites was [Rock Me to Sleep, Mother?]. She used to say her mother sang that to her. There were six of us children, but only three are left. My brother Leonard was named for J.D. (I think are the initials) Leonard. Anyway he was the man who at one time was interested in the old White House and race course that used to be at Riverside. As I recall this man Leonard was also interested in the old Oswego smelter, and father worked there for six years. That old brown majolica pitcher over there — it holds a gallon — we used to carry down to the men full of milk. And did they lap it up on a hot day!

Mother taught the first Sunday School in Oswego. She gathered in the children [ather?] house, and played the melodeon for them. I have the melodeon still.

Library of Congress

Mother was a Methodist. One of her Sunday School pupils was Belle Trullinger, who afterwards married Governor Geer. She was his second wife. Mother used to tell a story of how Belle's mother bought her a little fringed parasols and the very first Sunday she had it here she came, carrying her parasol with a great air and her little face and hands were as dirty as they could be. She couldn't wait and ran off from home before getting cleaned up.

Mother loved poetry. She kept a scrap book and pasted poetry in it. Scrap books of that sort were quite popular in her day. She was religious, but never interfered with us young people having a good time. We danced a lot. The folks used to belong to Good Templars Lodge, which was very popular with everybody around here in those days.

Form D

Extra Comment

Federal Writers' Project

Works Progress Administration

OREGON FOLKLORE STUDIES

Name of worker Sara B. Wrenn Date December 22, 1938

Address 505 Elks Building, Portland, Oregon

Subject Social Life

Name and address of informant Mrs. Margaret Weightman Cor. Oak & Cornell, Oswego, Oregon

Comment: This interview was made chiefly because of the informant's mother and what she could remember. This trip out to the hill south of Oswego was made to interview an old

Library of Congress

lady who was not at home, and the worker interviewed such as she could find who might tell something. It was poor hunting, with a long walk in vain.